A WHITE-FLOWERED ERYTHRINA HERBACEA L. (FABACEAE) FROM THE GULF COAST OF FLORIDA

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A white-flowered specimen of the normally red-flowered Erythrina herbacea L. was observed growing at the margin of a coastal thicket at Fort DeSoto Park, Pinellas County, Florida. The plant consists of several stems approximately 10 cm in diameter and 3 m in height. A search of the area did not reveal any other white-flowered plants, although the red-flowered form was very common. Limited observations through two reproductive periods did not reveal any potential pollinators visiting the flowers although ants were occasionally observed around the inflorescence.

Erythrina herbacea L. f. albiflora Moffler and Crewz, forma nova

Differt a forma rubra floribus albibus pro rubribus habet. Holotype: Florida: Pinellas County: Fort DeSoto Park: at margin of wooded area on St. Jean Key, west of State Road 693 (T33s, R16E, sec. 8). Associates include Quercus geminata, Sabal palmetto, and Dalbergia ecastophyllum. David W. Crewz 2132 (STPE). An isotype is in the herbarium of the University of South Florida (USF).